

Washington - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, Chairwoman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law (CAL), today announced her intention to begin hearings on the Bush Administration's recent firing of seven U.S. Attorneys.

The CAL Subcommittee's jurisdiction includes oversight of certain federal agencies, including the Office of the U.S. Attorneys.

"I'm calling this hearing because we need to make sure that the selection of federal prosecutors is not being made for political reasons," said Chairwoman Sánchez. "No presidential administration - now or in the future - should be allowed to dismantle the important constitutional set of checks and balances to achieve a political agenda."

The subcommittee will consider a bill introduced by Congressman Howard Berman that would reverse a new provision in the USA PATRIOT Act allowing the Attorney General to indefinitely appoint federal prosecutors through the end of the Bush Administration without Senate confirmation. The Berman bill would restore the previous process of selecting permanent and interim candidates to U.S. Attorney offices.

Chairwoman Sánchez' subcommittee will announce the specific scheduling and witness list for the hearing in the coming days.